

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Kimihiko KAZUI, et al.**

Filed : **Concurrently Herewith**

For : **MULTIMEDIA DATA ELECTRONIC MAIL...**

Serial No. : **Concurrently Herewith**

August 21, 2001

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

8. (Amended) The multimedia electronic mail system according to claim 1 wherein

said multimedia data server indicates the retention period information to the entire receiving clients described in said reference client information, prior to the expiration of said retention period,

said receiving client provides a means to confirm before the expiration of retention period whether or not said retention period is to be extended,

a request for extending said retention period issued by said user is transferred with said multimedia data identifier to said multimedia data server, and

said multimedia data server, upon receiving said request from said receiving client, updates the retention period information of said multimedia data corresponding to said received multimedia data identifier.

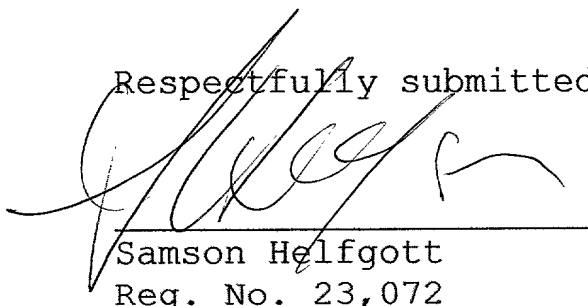
REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

This amendment is being submitted to avoid multiple dependent claims

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) The multimedia electronic mail system according to ~~either of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6 wherein

said multimedia data server indicates the retention period information to the entire receiving clients described in said reference client information, prior to the expiration of said retention period,

said receiving client provides a means to confirm before the expiration of retention period whether or not said retention period is to be extended,

a request for extending said retention period issued by said user is transferred with said multimedia data identifier to said multimedia data server, and

said multimedia data server, upon receiving said request from said receiving client, updates the retention period information of said multimedia data corresponding to said received multimedia data identifier.